

today. I thank our leadership for giving us the opportunity to listen to this voice of peace and restraint and wisdom. I am personally very grateful to the guest Chaplain for his presentation.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Senate will resume consideration, under the direction of Chairman LEAHY and Ranking Member McCONNELL, of the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act. Rollcall votes on amendments to this bill are expected as the Senate works to complete action on this bill today. Hopefully by this afternoon sometime we can complete this most important piece of legislation.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, what is the parliamentary situation?

#### FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate is prepared to lay down the bill. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of H.R. 2506, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2506) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Minnesota is recognized.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I thank both Senator LEAHY and Senator McCONNELL for their work. I will have a number of amendments. Senator KENNEDY wants to speak briefly, and I ask my colleague from Illinois whether he also wants to speak.

Mr. DURBIN. Not at this point.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I follow Senator KENNEDY and be able to lay down the first amendment.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Massachusetts is recognized.

#### THE ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, since September 11, the courageous acts of

countless Americans have set a new standard for the Nation. As the whole world watched the horror on television, it also witnessed what is best in our country and our character. As buildings collapsed, the American spirit soared.

The indelible images of the first days will live on in all the days of our history. Firefighters and police risked their lives and gave their lives to save others, and hundreds of rescuers paid the ultimate price. The brave passengers of flight 93 fought and defied the terrorists, and in the face of their own inevitable death, they prevented the killing of so many others.

Construction and health workers went into the shadow of constant danger to search for the missing and help the survivors. The mayor of New York City went everywhere sustaining the city. New Yorkers lined up for blocks to give blood, and so did thousands more across the country. Hundreds of millions of dollars poured in for the families of the victims, as valiantly, tearfully, and quietly they said goodbye to a mother, father, son, daughter, or friend in funeral after funeral.

And through it all Americans have begun to think deeply about our country again. We have a new sense of the precious nature of our freedom which, in the years after the cold war, we have increasingly taken for granted. We have learned anew to prize the experiment called America—a nation based not on sameness, but on diversity—a nation of different races, backgrounds, and faiths, defined not by an accident of geography or history, but by the high aspirations for a better life and greater opportunity that brought so many millions to these shores from every continent and country on the Earth.

Now, we have seen, perhaps more clearly than ever before in our lives, how we are all in this together—how, if even one of us is hurting all of us hurt. Our first thoughts on September 11 were about others, not ourselves.

That spirit must now live on. It is the new standard by which we must measure everything we do.

Today, brave young Americans are on the front lines of the fight for freedom from fear. Here at home, we must stand together to face and defeat the terrorists who would poison our people, panic our society, and paralyze our democracy. An essential point of protecting our homefront is protecting our economy—because the state of our Union cannot be strong, if the state of our economy is weak.

We need to speak honestly and directly about the choices we face—and we need to do so in the same spirit which has rallied Americans since September 11. The standard is clear—to seek what is right for our country, and not just for ourselves; not to strive for private advantage in a time of national

need. And that standard should be bipartisan—not the false bipartisanship of merely going along, but true bipartisanship, which is a two-way street, where we genuinely seek and respectfully debate what course is best for our economy, for rebuilding and restoring, and especially for all those who have been hurt in the downturn. As President Bush eloquently said when he spoke to the Congress. “We will come together to strengthen America’s economy, and put our people back to work.” Now all of us, in both parties, in both Congress and the administration, must live up to that all important responsibility.

Fundamentally, this, too, is a question of national security. For a strong economy is the basis of a strong Nation. It assures opportunity for all. It is the foundation of a decent and free society at home, without which we cannot fight for decent and free societies abroad.

Before September 11, the Nation’s economy was already weakening. The unemployment rate had been climbing for months. Relatively few new jobs were being created. Companies were announcing successive rounds of layoffs. Business investment was being drastically reduced, and profits were rapidly falling.

Many economists believed we were in a recession, or that a recession was inevitable. And then came September 11, which was an attack not just on our cities and citizens, but on the entire American economy. No one can truly weigh the loss of life. But the loss of property amounts to tens of billions of dollars. We can redress that, and we will. But the loss and the risk went far beyond Ground Zero—in New York or at the Pentagon.

Americans stopped flying and stopped buying. Corporations put investment decisions on hold. Hundreds of thousands lost their jobs in companies across the economy, from airlines and hotels, to restaurants, retailers, and manufacturers of high-technology equipment.

Never before has it been so clear how inter-connected our society is. Two buildings go down tragically in New York City, and the entire economy suffers across the land. Economic models do not account for this. The most important of all our resources, our national confidence, has been more damaged than anyone initially realized.

It is crucial to recognize that once underway, a recession has no clear bottom. Unless we respond, it can spiral downward out of control, raising unemployment to higher and higher levels, and sharply reducing the flow of revenues for both government and business.

Consider this: Americans on average were saving very little of their income before September 11. If they now increase their savings by only 1 percent because they are afraid to spend, they